

# Partners teaming up with artist to buy, rebuild Bridal Veil Falls tram

By RYAN VAN BENTHUYSEN

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PROVO CANYON — It's not winter yet but Merlin Ross feels the chill.

Ross said his dream of rebuilding the Bridal Veil Falls tram line seems to be 10 feet under the same snow that swept through Provo Canyon in January 1996 and destroyed the facility.

"We feel like we've been hit by the avalanche, too," Ross said. "Things haven't been moving too well, so we're kind of discouraged."

Ross, of Orem, and his partner, Wayne Rice of Payson, figure they need \$2 million to buy the 19 acres of property known as Bridal Veil Falls. That amount of money should also cover the cost of fixing the tram that climbs the mountain. But the two men have been able to bank less than \$1,000.

However, Ross is hopeful the pair's dream will come true before the 2002 Winter Olympics come to town.

"This is new for us, so it's kind of a dream," he said. "But the growing pains of a dream are sometimes significant."

A local artist's interest in the project might help massage some of those pains.

Mike Wood of Orem painted a picture of the falls and will make prints for anyone who wants to buy them. The prints will go for \$15-\$20, Wood said. If Wood were to sell prints for \$20 apiece and donate 100 percent of the profits, he would have to sell 100,000 prints to raise the full \$2 million.

But only 20 percent of Wood's profits will be donated to Ross' Bridal Veil Falls dream, Wood said. The rest will pay Wood for his overhead costs for prints and materials.

"I've even been thinking of going door-to-door to sell these," he said.

Ross and Rice are also selling porcelain dolls in the likeness of Norita and Grey Eagle.



Courtesy photo

**Rebuilding dreams:** Partners Merlin Ross and Wayne Rice are selling prints of Orem artist Mike Wood's painting of Bridal Veil Falls to raise money to buy and rebuild the tram at the falls. The partners are also selling porcelain dolls, below, for the cause.

the two characters that represent the legend of Bridal Veil Falls. They were members of rival tribes, making the situation difficult when Norita fell in love with Grey Eagle. The dolls sell for \$500 apiece.

And the sooner they sell, the better, Ross said.

"We would like to have the money raised by next spring," he said.

For information on the dolls, call Ross at the R & R Fun Factory at 225-8506. For more information on Wood's painting of the falls, call him at 224-7418.

